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LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 9 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/667-S/1994/1279) outlining his Government's support for the Security Council increasing its reliance on public debate.

New Zealand supports this objective. Indeed, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, Mr. Don McKinnon, in his statement to the General Assembly on 27 September 1994 proposed that when disputes are first placed before the Security Council, they should be the subject of an open debate. He said, inter alia:

> "I believe the Council should give affected States an adequate hearing before addressing the problem behind closed doors. New Zealand's experience on the Security Council suggests the investment in openness that would be achieved by developing a practice of collectively hearing directly from the parties involved would be worthwhile."

My delegation looks forward to further discussion of this issue in the Security Council at an early date.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Colin R. KEATING
Permanent Representative

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